



***Maine Conservation Corps***  
**AmeriCorps Environmental Educators**  
**124 State House Station**  
**Augusta, ME 04333-0124**  
**207-624-6091**  
**Fax: 207-287-3342**



**Frequently asked Questions**

**What skills do I need to have?**

Most programs require a Bachelor's Degree or an Associate Degree with several years of related volunteer/job experience. Motivation and commitment help provide a positive service experience.

**When do the MCC AmeriCorps Environmental Educator Program positions begin?**

1700 positions start in January. 900 hour positions start in January and May.

**How can I check the status of my application?**

You can call or e-mail Brenda Webber at MCC. 207-624-6085 or [Brenda.L.Webber@maine.gov](mailto:Brenda.L.Webber@maine.gov)

Applications are filed in the following categories:

**Incomplete** - Applications are held in incomplete status until all required items are received. The most helpful thing you can do is to complete your application with all required items on the checklist.

**Complete** – Application has all required items. At this point you will be contacted to select your top 3 positions.

**Complete and Forwarded** – Application has been forwarded for review by Host Sites.

**Not selected** – not all applications are selected to be forwarded for review by Host Sites.

**What is a Host Site?** MCC partners with environmental organizations throughout the state who host our members during their term of service. These organizations are referred to as Host Sites.

**How does the interview process work? When will I be called for an interview?**

The MCC Program Coordinator will forward your application to your top 3 positions. Host Sites will review applications and conduct interviews. Not all applicants are called for an interview.

Host Sites will offer positions to applicants after they complete their interviews.

**Will I get training?**

Absolutely. All members receive training at the beginning of their service, as well as project-specific training during service.

**What schedules would I be expected to work?**

You can anticipate serving an average of 40 hours per week. Because this is an average, there may be some weeks requiring more than 40 hours and some weeks requiring less.

**What benefits are provided?**

MCC work is community service work.

You will receive:

- **Living allowance**
  - \$253.50 per week for 45 weeks for a 1700 hour position
  - \$253.50 per week for 24 weeks for a 900 hour position

Your living allowance is taxed.

## *Maine Conservation Corps* **An AmeriCorps Program**

Page 2 of 2

You will receive: (cont)

- **Health insurance** at no charge to members who would like it. You are responsible for co-pays, deductibles, etc.
- **Child Care reimbursement** (if eligible). An AmeriCorps member who is a legal parent or guardian living with the child may be eligible for childcare reimbursement. The member's household must be income eligible, and the caregiver must be a legal provider in the state. Only members with children younger than 13 may receive childcare assistance. Any childcare allotment is subject to income taxes.
- **Student Loan Forbearance** (if eligible). Check with your lender to determine whether your loans qualify for forbearance while you are serving in a "national service" program with AmeriCorps. During this forbearance based on national service, interest continues to accrue. If you successfully complete your term of service and earn an education award, the Trust will pay all or a portion of the interest that has accrued on your qualified student loans during this period. This accrued interest paid by the Trust, like the education award itself, is subject to income taxes.
- **Maine State Park Pass** for use during your term of service.
- **Unlimited Networking, training and experiential learning** opportunities in the Environmental Field in Maine.
- **A great sense of satisfaction** from taking on responsibilities that directly affect the environment and the people of Maine.
- **Education Award** - upon successful completion of your term of service, you will receive an Education Award. This award may be used to pay off existing student loans or future education costs.
  - \$4,725 for successful completion of 1700 hours of service
  - \$2,362.50 for successful completion of 900 hours of service
  - An Education Award is subject to income taxes in the year it is used.
  - [http://www.americorps.org/for\\_individuals/alumni/education\\_award.asp](http://www.americorps.org/for_individuals/alumni/education_award.asp)

### **Can I have a part time job while serving in your program?**

You can supplement your income with part time work as long as the part-time job does not take priority over your MCC schedule. You and your Host Site supervisor must carefully review your schedule if you decide to work a part-time job while serving as an MCC AmeriCorps Environmental Educator.

### **Is Housing Provided?**

It is up to each member to secure his or her own housing. Some Host Sites provide housing as an added benefit. This information is included in the descriptive list of Open Positions that is e-mailed to you when you apply.

### **Can I have a pet?**

This will depend on your landlord.

No pets are allowed in housing that is provided by MCC Host Sites.

### **Do I need to have a car?**

If you are coming to Maine from another state please note that Maine is a rural state with almost no public transportation. It can be a challenge to live and work here without a car.

You are expected to get to and from home and office, etc, on your own. In addition, your Host Site may require that you use your personal vehicle to travel to and from project sites and reimburse you for the travel costs according to their organization's policy.

**In addition to our FAQ's you may also want to check out the AmeriCorps website FAQ's:**

[http://www.americorps.org/for\\_individuals/faq/index.asp](http://www.americorps.org/for_individuals/faq/index.asp)

**For more information about the Environmental Educator positions:**

[http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/mcc/EEO\\_000.htm](http://www.maine.gov/doc/parks/mcc/EEO_000.htm)